Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a tubular drive shaft, comprising a first section with a first diameter and a second section with a second diameter, said second diameter being smaller than said first diameter, and a transition section in which a diameter of said drive shaft diminishes from said first diameter to said second diameter and ~~which is provided with~~ said transition section further comprising an annular bead formed therein, said annular bead ~~which~~ coaxially ~~surrounds~~ surrounding a longitudinal axis of said drive shaft, and in the process of which method a tube with said first diameter is reshaped and reduced in diameter to form said second section and said transition section,

characterized in that said bead is formed during, after, or during a break in said reshaping process that results in the production of said second section with said second diameter, wherein said bead determines at which position said transition section corrugates in the event of a crash.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said tube is reshaped by at least one of rotary swaging or drawing.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said bead is formed at an outer surface of said transition section.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said bead is formed at an inner surface of said transition section.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in, that a first bead is formed at an outer surface and a second bead is formed at an inner surface of said transition portion.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 , characterized in, that said bead is formed such that it extends along a whole circumference of said transition portion without interruption.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claims 1 ~~to 6~~, characterized in that said bead is formed, such that it extends along a circumference of said transition section with interruptions.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said bead is formed by a chip-removing technique, in particular by turning.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said bead is formed by a chipless technique.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, characterized in that said bead is rolled into said transition portion.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, characterized in that said bead is pressed into said transition portion.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, characterized in that said bead is formed by rotary swaging.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that said bead has a depth of 0.15 mm to 0.3 mm.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a force, which acts upon said transition portion while forming said bead has a component parallel to a longitudinal axis of said drive shaft.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that said component of said force which is parallel to said axis is larger than a radial component of said force.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that said force acts only parallelly to said axis.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that while forming said bead into said transition section, in particular while forming said bead by pressing, occuring forces are accomodated by a counter bearing, which is temporarily put to said transition portion at its face opposite to said bead.

18. (Previously presented) A tubular drive shaft comprising a first section with a first diameter and a second section with a second diameter, said second diameter being smaller than said first diameter, and a transition section in which a diameter of said drive shaft diminishes from said first diameter to said second diameter and which is provided with an annular bead coaxially surrounding a longitudinal axis of said drive shaft, which is produced by a method according to any one of the previous claims.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said tubular drive shaft ~~is a cardan shaft for a motor vehicle~~ tears off at said bead in the event of a crash.

20. (Currently amended) The tubular drive shaft according to claim 18, characterized in that said tubular drive shaft ~~is a cardan shaft for a motor vehicle~~ tears off at said bead in the event of a crash.